



Illinois Environmental Protection Agency



State of Illinois

# 2012 Legislative Report

## Illinois

### Electronic Recycling Program



*Illinois Environmental Protection Agency*

*Waste Reduction and Compliance Section*

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## Introduction

Public Act 97-0287 "Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act", Section 20(d), requires the Agency to report to the Governor and the General Assembly annually on the previous program year's performance.

Ewaste is a popular, informal name for electronic products nearing the end of their "useful life." Computers, televisions, printers, monitors, VCRs, and fax machines are common electronic products. Many of these products can be reused, refurbished, or recycled.

*Unfortunately, electronic discards is one of the fastest growing segments of our nation's waste stream.*



Many electronic products contain lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium and other materials that can pose environmental and health risks that must be managed. Obsolete electronic products can be recycled or refurbished for reuse and then returned to the economic mainstream in the form of raw materials or products.

The management of obsolete residential products is necessary to prioritize the reuse and recycling of these products as the preferred management strategy over incineration and landfill disposal.

With the passage of the Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act enacted in 2008, certain portions of the electronic waste stream are defined and the systems to recover and recycle them will be administratively regulated. Public Act 97-0287 (Act), enacted August 2011, amended the Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act. By increasing the state's recycling goal, it also increased economic development and created greater opportunities for recycling by increasing the list of covered electronic devices (CEDs) from four to 17.

Those devices are: computers, monitors, televisions, printers, electronic keyboards, facsimile machines, videocassette recorders, portable digital music players, digital video disc players, video game consoles, electronic mouse, scanners, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers, digital video disc recorders, or small-scale servers. The eligible electronic devices (EEDs) are: mobile telephones, portable digital assistants and computer cables.

## **Program Overview**

### **Manufacturer Requirements:**

Manufacturers of CED's are required to register and have reporting requirements, both on an annual basis.

#### **Manufacturer Timeline:**

- October 1 – Registration
- November 1 – Registration fee due
- November 1 - Recycler information – manufacturers are to provide the name and address of the registered recyclers they will be using to assist in meeting their goals
- September 1 - Manufacturer sales data used to determine their current program year's goals are due (sales from two years prior to current program year)
- January 31 – Total weights collected from previous year

### **Manufacturer Registration and Fees:**

Manufacturers who sell any of the covered electronic devices in the State of Illinois must register with the Illinois EPA and pay the applicable registration fee. For Program Year 2011, there were 70 registered manufacturers.

The manufacturer fee in 2011 was \$5,045. Fee changes were made in the latest round of revisions, signed August 2011, allowing for a fee-based system determined by market shares.

### **Manufacturer Totals:**

For 2011, 104 manufacturers were assigned electronic product recycling goals. These goals were calculated using the return share formula which was determined by using the 2010 base weight multiplied by the 2010 goal attainment percentage. Amendments to the Act changed the goal determination for 2012 and thereafter. Goals will be assigned based on market shares derived by a specific percentage of their sales from two years prior to the program year.



For 2011, 57 of those manufacturers received credit for recycling 32,374,467 pounds of electronic products. That exceeded the statewide recycling goal set by the Illinois Products Recycling and Reuse Act by 4,218,186 pounds.

Manufacturers that were assigned an Illinois recycling goal were required to submit their amounts collected by January 31, 2012. Of the reporting collection results, 28 exercised the portions of the legislation that allowed adjustments for collecting in underserved counties, refurbishing products for their original intention, and donating to an educational institution. The actual amount reported as collected was 26,260,374 pounds.

<i>Manufacturer Reporting:</i>	
<i>Refurbishment Credits</i>	<i>1,012,473</i>
<i>Underserved County Credits</i>	<i>4,565,514</i>
<i>Secondary Education Credits</i>	<i>536,106</i>
<i>No Credits</i>	<i>26,260,374</i>
<i>Final</i>	<i>32,374,467</i>

#### Collector/Recycler/Refurbisher Requirements:

Collectors/Recyclers/Refurbishers are also required to register on an annual basis. Collectors have annual reporting requirements. If a company is a recycler and/or refurbisher only, they do not have reporting requirements.

#### Collector Timeline:

- January 1 – Registration
- January 1 – Registration fee (collectors only have no fees)
- January 31 - Total weights collected from previous year (recyclers and/or refurbishers only are not required to report)

#### Collector, Recycler, Refurbisher Registration and Fees:

The Electronics Products Recycling and Reuse Act requires that collectors who collect or receive covered and eligible electronic devices register with the Illinois EPA. In addition, each recycler/refurbisher must register with the Illinois EPA. For Program Year 2011, there were 106 registered collectors/recyclers/refurbishers.

Recycler/refurbisher fees in 2011 were \$2,018. Fee changes were made in the latest round of revisions, effective August 2011, allowing for a fee-based system determined by annual throughput.

#### Collector Totals:

For 2011, collectors were required to submit the total weight of individual covered and eligible electronic devices collected for each manufacturer. Collectors reported collecting 32,399,627 pounds.



#### Collection Locations:

The Illinois EPA maintains on its web site a list of all the registered collection site locations throughout Illinois. This list contains over 325 locations and therefore is too extensive to list in this report.

#### Compliance and Enforcement:

Illinois EPA's primary responsibility for implementing the Illinois Ewaste Law is to evaluate compliance and take enforcement action as needed to ensure that all parties are meeting their responsibilities under the law. Parties that must comply with this law include manufacturers, collectors, recyclers, refurbishers and retailers.



Compliance activities include: evaluating whether recycler/refurbisher facilities are following the law and meeting all of their regulatory obligations; ensuring manufacturers selling covered devices in Illinois have registered and paid the applicable fees; evaluating whether collectors/recyclers/refurbishers collecting and/or processing residential Ewaste have registered and paid the applicable fees; and providing accurate and up-to-date information on the Illinois EPA's Electronic Recycling web page.

#### Public Education/Outreach:

The Illinois EPA is required to host an Electronics Products Recycling Conference in Program Years 2012, 2013 and 2014 and at its discretion thereafter.

The first conference was held in Springfield on March 15, 2012. The Illinois County Solid Waste Management Association co-hosted the conference and accepted registrations, provided lunch, and acted as the moderators. Speakers included Agency personnel, a manufacturer representative, recyclers and county recycling coordinators. Approximately 100 attendees were present. There were numerous positive comments from all sectors on the Agency's implementation and management of the program.

Illinois EPA realizes the importance of maintaining consistency with other states which have Ewaste laws. As a result, participation as an active member with the Electronics Recycling Coordination Clearinghouse is a vital part in coordinating with other states to address issues of concern.

In addition, Illinois EPA's [Electronic Waste Recycling page](#) is a source of information regarding changes and requirements for all parties involved and it is aimed at ensuring everyone is fully knowledgeable of and appropriately prepared to handle their responsibilities.

In an effort to continue public outreach, beginning 2013 the Illinois EPA will be utilizing a portion of the manufacturer, recycler and refurbisher registration fees for issuing grants to county recycling coordinators to enable them to inform residents about this Act and their recycling opportunities.

#### **Program Development**

##### Web Site:

The Electronic Waste Recycling web site is a user-friendly tool for informing all parties involved about changes and requirements. The web site is categorized as follows:

**About the Program:** Basic information regarding the Electronic Recycling and Reuse Act and external links applicable to the program are provided.

**Manufacturers:** All applicable forms are available online and can be filled out online and submitted electronically. In addition, fee amounts, goals for current and previous years, registered manufacturers, reports of manufacturer devices and all non-compliant manufacturers are provided. Retailers can access this information to ensure manufacturers who are selling their products in Illinois are registered.

**Collectors, Recyclers, Refurbishers:** All applicable forms are available online and can be filled out online and submitted electronically. Also, fee amounts, registered collectors, registered residential Ewaste sites in Illinois are listed.

**Consumers:** Registered residential Ewaste sites in Illinois, a list of manufacturers covered electronic devices are included.



For more information on the Illinois EPA's Electronic Recycling Program, visit our website at:

<http://www.epa.state.il.us/land/electronic-waste-recycling/index.html>